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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 9637/OL307

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

KOBAYASHI et al.

Serial No.: 09/888,073

Art Unit: 3725

Filed: June 22, 2001

Examiner: SELF, Shelley M.

For: PRESS MACHINE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies¹ of the documents listed thereon.

¹To the extent that a document is listed and no copy of same is attached, then such document is not at the present time available to the undersigned or is available in the file of a parent application. If a listed document is not in the English language and an English translation is readily available, such translation is also attached; if translation is not attached it is not readily available to the undersigned. If a foreign language patent document is cited, and an English language equivalent is known to the undersigned, then such equivalent patent is also cited on the attached form along with the corresponding foreign language patent and a connecting arrow indicated therebetween; if no such English language equivalent is cited, then none is known to the undersigned.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

All of these documents were either 1) not cited in a foreign counterpart of this application and not known for more than three months, or 2) were first cited in a foreign counterpart of this application not more than three months ago.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination.

The undersigned is also enclosing herewith a copy of a Search Report issued January 22, 2003 for the European counterpart of the present patent application (Application No. 01305537.1), in which the presently disclosed references were cited. Since a translation of the Search Report is also enclosed, or the Search Report utilizes conventional codes to characterize each cited reference,

it is believed that the applicants in the above-identified patent application have now met the "concise explanation" requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and, in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, if the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above deposit account for any deficiency.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: March 4, 2003

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